**INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO. 688**

**To:** Iowa Medicaid Hospitals, Physician, Dentist, Podiatrist, Optometrist, Pharmacy, Home Health Agency, Rural Health Clinic, Clinic, Chiropractor, Skilled Nursing Facility, Rehab Agency, Intermediate Care Facility, Community Mental Health, Family Planning, ICF/MR State, Mental Hospital, Community Based ICF/MR, Psychologist, Screening Center, Maternal Health Center, Ambulatory Surgical Center, Certified Nurse Midwife, PMIC, CRNA, Hospice, FQHC, Nurse Practitioner, Nursing Facility-Mentally Ill, and Institutional General Providers

**From:** Iowa Department of Human Services, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise

**Date:** March 17, 2008

**Subject:** **Reminder: April 1, 2008 Implementation of Tamper-Resistant Prescription Drug Pads for Covered Outpatient Drugs**

**Effective Date:** April 1, 2008 and October 1, 2008

This is a reminder of the requirement for use of tamper resistant prescription drug pads effective April 1, 2008 previously described in Informational Letter 646 (dated October 12, 2007). For complete details, please refer to that Informational Letter. This requirement is based on the State Medicaid Director Letter (SMDL) #07-012 from the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) dated August 17, 2007 and written guidance provided on September 12, 2007 from the Medicaid Integrity Group of CMS. Additionally, on September 29, 2007, President George W. Bush signed the "Extenders Law", that later delayed the implementation date until **April 1, 2008.**

All informational letters are available on line at: http://www.ime.state.ia.us/Providers/Bulletins.html. If you do not have Internet access and would like to request a copy of that (or any) Informational Letter, please call the number at the bottom of this notice.

Beginning April 1, 2008, any pharmacist receiving a hard copy prescription for a Medicaid member not written or printed on a tamper-resistant prescription pad and/or paper must verify the prescription order with the prescriber for Medicaid reimbursement purposes. If the prescription is for Schedule II Controlled Substances and was written on a non-tamper resistant prescription pad/paper, the pharmacist will need to obtain a new written prescription executed on tamper resistant pad/paper. As always, the pharmacist must comply with all federal and state laws and regulations applicable to the practice of pharmacy.

**To be considered tamper resistant** on April 1, 2008, a prescription pad must contain at least one of the following three characteristics:

1) one or more industry-recognized features designed to prevent unauthorized copying of a completed or blank prescription form;

2) one or more industry-recognized features designed to prevent the erasure or modification of information written on the prescription by the prescriber;

3) one or more industry-recognized features designed to prevent the use of counterfeit prescription forms.

No later than October 1, 2008, to be considered tamper resistant, a prescription pad must contain all of the foregoing three characteristics. Failure of a State to enforce the tamper-resistant pad requirement may result in the loss of Federal financial participation.

The IME appreciates your partnership as we work together to serve the needs of Iowa Medicaid members within federal requirements. If you have any questions, please contact IME Provider Services at 1-800-338-7909, locally (in Des Moines) at 515-725-1004 or by e-mail at: imeproviderservices@dhs.state.ia.us